



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COCKFIGHTING SEARCH WARRANT SERVED ***Hundreds of fighting birds found, several suspects arrested***

Animal Control Officers from the County's Department of Animal Services served search warrants last night and this morning West Lilac Road property in unincorporated Escondido and seized several fighting birds as well as a large quantity of cockfighting paraphernalia.

The warrants were obtained after a short investigation where officers developed evidence of suspected cockfighting. Upon entry to the property, officers discovered more than 1000 birds. In addition, they found various implements used by cockfighters, including knives, drugs, medications, training aids, etc. A representative sample of the birds and all of the implements and paraphernalia were seized as evidence.

"Cockfighting is a bloody venture where two birds are set to fight with each other," said John Carlson, Regional Director of the Department of Animal Services' North Regional Animal Shelter. "These birds have had their natural spur removed and the cockfighters place sharpened knives to the bird's leg. When they fight, they will cut each other apart until one dies or is so weakened it cannot continue to fight."

"Unfortunately, the birds used in cockfighting cannot be rehabilitated," Carlson said. "Their aggressive traits have been bred into them for generations. Even without the addition of the knives, the birds would be dangerous to other birds."

The individuals arrested included Rogelio Guilean-Rodriquez and Juan Manuel Uribe, both of whom reside on the property, and Jose Antonio Avila, who resides elsewhere. All were cited and released.

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